

Dkt. 68547-PCT-US/JPW/CH

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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U.S. Serial No. : Not Yet Known (national stage of PCT

International Application No.

PCT/US2004/036170)

Filed : Herewith

For : METHODS FOR TREATING MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

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April 27, 2006

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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted in connection with the above-identified §371 national stage application based on PCT International Application No. PCT/US2004/036170, filed October 28, 2004, designating the United States and claiming priority of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/516,328, filed October 31, 2003. Thirty (30) months from the priority date is April 30, 2006. Accordingly, this Preliminary Amendment is being timely filed.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

A new Abstract of the Disclosure is referred to on page 3 of this paper and attached hereto as Exhibit A.

A substitute **Sequence Listing** is referred to on page 4 of this paper and attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.